TOURISTIC

133 their heights—the Eagle; and the latter guess would be the true index to the character of the inhabitants—courageous, strong and enduring. These mountains, covered with stately [137] pinewoods and beautiful forests of beeches and olives many hundreds of years old, are often cut into deep, mysterious gorges and lovely green valleys which lend their soft, rich and dark colors to make a picture worthy of the talents of a master.

The natural geography of Central Albania is that of littoral plains, imperceptibly changing into smooth hills with dense oakwoods, which encircle and hold as precious secrets many wide and fertile basins. These rolling hills further to the south, heighten into mountains of unusual grandeur, intersected with wooded ravines and sheer precipices. For those who are irresistibly attracted by the invading charms of the solitary plains, the typical character of the Karst of these higher regions holds a peculiar fascination; also the lonely splendor of the bare, rocky, limestone cliffs and summits, haunted by the mountain eagle.

•489 Transportation in Albania is of the pleasantest sort—by air, by automobile or by

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489 steamer. Albania has no railroad. This fact is readily ignored for a view of a country from a moving train is no view at all. Travelling is more delightful when we can stop wheresoever we will please and enjoy ourselves to the fullest. And when the time comes for a regretted farewell the aeroplane is much faster and far more comfortable.

000 The most well-known of Swiss and Tyrolian landscapes are in no way superior to the picturesque mountain lakes of Ochrida and Presba in Albania; their clear and limpid waters reflect the varied shades and colors of their rich surroundings and the magnificence of the Balkan sky in an unbelievable harmony of hues, pierced occasionally with a flash of red or gold or black as the rich, wild water darts hither and yon.

However, as stated above, the more lasting charm of Albania lies in the varied little villages and the unusual originality of the people expressed by their colorful and characteristic costumes, rather than in the exceptional beauty of the country. Here a friendly people seek to gratify every wish and whim of the visitor, to make him feel at home and welcome so that he will quickly return to this delightful country.